GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:673
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2001
NEW TRANSPORT SYSTEM THROUGH WATERWAYS
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Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a)whether there is any proposal to set up a new Transport System through the national waterways of 14, 500 K. m. long rivers;

(b)if so, the details in this regard and the rivers in which waterways are likely to be developed and the places to be connected thereby ;

(c)names of places where waterways is available at present; and

(d)the details of the proposal of the Government to utilize the available waterways in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)

(a), (b), (c) & (d) Yes Sir. The National Transport Policy Committee report (1980) identified ten waterways as having potential for declaration and development as National Waterways namely ;

(i) The Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system

(ii) The Brahmaputra

(iii) The West Coast Canal

(iv) The Sunderbans

(v) The Godavari

(vi) The Krishna

(vii) The Mahanadi

(viii) The Narmada

(ix) The Mandovi, Zuari rivers and Cumberjua canal in Goa

(x) The Tapi

So far three waterways have been declared as national waterways namely;

National Waterway No.1- Allahabad-Haldia stretch (1620 k.m.) of Ganga Bhaghirathi-Hoogly river system
National Waterway No.2 - Dhubri Sadiya stretch (891 K.m.) of river Brahmaputra
National Waterway No.3 - Kollam -Kottapuram stretch of West Coast Canal along with Champakara and Udyogmandal Canals(205 K.m)Techo-economic feasibility studies for assessing the potential /navigability of the following inland waterways have been conducted.

1. The Sunderbans from Haldia to Raimangal rivers confluence at Bangladesh Border

2. The Barak River from Lakhipur to Karimganj

3. Kakinada-Mercaunam canal integrated with rivers Krishna from Wazirabad to Vijayawada and Godavari from Badrachalam to Rajahmundry.

4. East Coast Canal from Paradeep to Haldia integrated with Brahmani river from Talcher to Paradeep/Dhamra

5. DVC Canal from Durgapur to confluence with Kunti river in Tribeni
6. Extension of NW-3 upto Kovalam in the South and Kasargode in the North.

The declaration of the above waterways as national waterways and subsequent development would be considered subject to availability of resources.

Various schemes for provision of infrastructure such as navigational channel, terminals at selected locations and navigational aids are being planned and executed in a phased manner by Inland Waterways Authority of India on the three national waterways

Provisions also exist under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Inland Water Transport Sectorfor loan assistance to state govts. upto 50% of the cost of the schemes on reimbursement basis for development of inland waterways and waterway infrastructure

With a view to giving an impetus to IWT sector and to encourage private sector participation in IWT infrastructure development and ownership and operation of inland vessels, the Government has approved an IWT policy which include several Policy measures and incentives to facilitate and promote private sector participation and investment in this sector.